

18 Counties Added to July Disaster Declaration Families and Businesses Now Eligible for Federal Aid

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver today received confirmation that President Obama has authorized 18 counties be added to a July 29, 2010, Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance funding.

Public Assistance funds are now available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations (including rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities) for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in 18 additional counties: Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Guthrie, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lucas, Mahaska, Polk, Sioux and Story.

The original 32 counties that were declared for Public Assistance are: Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Davis, Decatur, Franklin, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Lee, Lyon, Madison, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Shelby, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, Webster and Wright.

The Presidential Disaster Declaration also includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps now to strengthen existing infrastructure.

Governor Culver has also requested that 39 counties be added to the same declaration for Individual Assistance. That request is still pending.

Governor Issues Disaster Proclamation for Calhoun County

Governor Chet Culver today issued a disaster proclamation for Calhoun County. The proclamation allows state resources to be utilized to help local officials and residents deal with the impacts of storms occurring since August 8, 2010.

The disaster proclamation also authorizes the implementation of the State Individual Assistance Grant Program to assist eligible residents of Calhoun County. The state's Individual Assistance Program provides up to \$5,000 in reimbursements for damages incurred for individuals and families whose income is less than 200 percent above the poverty level. That means individuals making \$21,660 or less may qualify, and a family of four making \$44,100 or less may qualify.

In addition, the Governor has extended a disaster proclamation for five counties affected by recent flooding and severe weather: Fayette, Jasper, Lucas, Lyon and Shelby.

Continued: 18 Counties Added to July Disaster Declaration – Aug. 13, 2010

The disaster proclamation extension authorizes the continued availability of the State Individual Assistance Grant Program for 30 additional days. Residents impacted in the following counties will have until Sept. 12, 2010 to apply for assistance.

Residents of counties where the State Individual Assistance Grant Program has been made available can call the Department of Human Services disaster assistance line at 1.866.434.4692. Application information will also be posted on the DHS Web site soon – visit www.dhs.state.ia.us and click Storm Help.

Water mission for Ames

The State of Iowa continues coordination of delivery of water to Ames and other impacted communities.

Beginning today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), at the request of the State of Iowa, is delivering 25 truckloads of water to assist Ames residents impacted by the recent flooding. Seven truckloads of water are scheduled to arrive in Ames this evening, with another 18 scheduled to be delivered tomorrow.

Also today, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has coordinated with the Safeguard Iowa Partnership the delivery of two truckloads of water to Ames and one truckload to Colfax.

These water deliveries from FEMA are in addition to six truckloads of water that were delivered to Ames through the efforts of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and the Safeguard Iowa Partnership.

Although progress is being made to restore water service, the boil order remains in effect for Ames.

Donations and Volunteering

Only cash donations are being requested at this time for victims of recent flooding. To find out how to donate, visit the HSEMD Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on the Aidmatrix link.

Those who are interested in volunteering to assist those impacted by flooding will find a link to register with Volunteer Iowa on the HSEMD Web site or call 515-725-3000 (toll free 1-800-308-5987).

Resources

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, along with other state and federal agencies in the State Emergency Operations Center in Johnston, continue to provide resources to and all the counties impacted by flooding.

Boone County

HSEMD coordinated with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to assist with pumping water from the City of Luther.

Mahaska County

HSEMD coordinated with City of Des Moines Special Teams to provide a dive team to close open valve at Oskaloosa Water Treatment Plant.

Story County

HSEMD coordinated with Iowa Department of Transportation to deliver a pump to the City of Kelley

Weather Outlook

A cold front by this evening will move across the state. Compared to yesterday's forecast, the rain has shifted south and east. The Skunk, lower Des Moines and portions of the Cedar, Iowa and Wapsipinicon river basins will receive heaviest rain.

Skunk River rising at Colfax as water from Ames hits the area. Current crest predicted around 11 a.m. Saturday at 22.5 feet.

Aid to Local Governments, Citizens

State Aid

Currently, Governor Chet Culver has issued disaster proclamations for 50 Iowa counties due to inclement weather since June 1, 2010: Appanoose, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Clayton, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, Monona, Monroe, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Polk, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Webster and Wright.

The proclamations allow state resources to be utilized to help local officials and residents deal with the impacts of storms which have occurred since June 1, 2010 – including the flash flooding that has plagued several counties in the past few days.

The disaster proclamations also authorize the implementation of the State Individual Assistance Grant Program to assist eligible residents in the 50 state-proclaimed counties.

The state's Individual Assistance Program provides up to \$5,000 in reimbursements for damages incurred for individuals and families whose income is less than 200 percent above the poverty level. That means individuals making \$21,660 or less may qualify, and a family of four making \$44,100 or less may qualify. Residents of counties where the State Individual Assistance Grant Program has been made available can call the Department of Human Services disaster assistance line at 1-866-434-4692. Application information is posted on the DHS Web site – visit <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us> and click "Storm Help."

At this time, the State Individual Assistance Grant Program is the only state program available to residents with damage to their primary residences as a result of storms since June 1.

Federal Assistance

Because of storms in May, a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance was requested on June 22 and issued on July 27 for Des Moines and Lee Counties (Disaster 1928). Federal Public Assistance provides aid to public entities and select non-profit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges and other public facilities, or to cover the cost of debris removal or emergency work during storms.

Iowa also received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance on July 29, 2010 (Disaster 1930) for storms June 1 and continuing. Thirty-two counties were included in the declaration: Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Davis, Decatur, Franklin, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Lee, Lyon, Madison, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Shelby, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, Webster and Wright.

Since the original request was made on July 6, Iowa has continued to experience significant damage due to severe weather. On Friday, July 30, the state requested that 18 counties be added to Presidential Disaster 1930 for Public Assistance: Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Guthrie, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lucas, Mahaska, Polk, Sioux and Story. That request was granted today, August 13.

A request to add 39 counties to Disaster 1930 for Individual Assistance was made Aug. 5, 2010, and is also still pending: Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Webster and Wright.

If a Presidential Disaster Declaration is made for Individual Assistance, federal dollars would then become available to residents and businesses in those counties. At that time, FEMA and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will disseminate information to citizens in declared counties about how to register for assistance. Included in the federal Individual Assistance Program are Small Business Administration loans, unemployment assistance, and rental and temporary housing assistance.

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